

## Chat during the presentation on involving the laity with the clergy in the selection of bishops

- 1:09:14 Thomas: The laity should have a greater voice in choosing bishops by Thomas Reese, SJ  
<https://religionnews.com/2024/11/19/the-laity-should-have-a-greater-voice-in-choosing-bishops/>
- 01:12:29 Thomas: From 1984: How are bishops selected?  
In 1984, then-associate editor Thomas J. Reese, S.J., explained in depth how bishops are selected—from the initial vetting process to final confirmation by the pope and the bishop himself.  
READ MORE >  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2024/11/21/vantage-point-thomas-reese-bishops-249328>
- 01:15:52 James Alex M: Replying to "Greetings from Car..."
- Greetings
- 01:17:58 Vicki: We already have married priests accepted when the Anglicans began ordaining women
- 01:22:40 Rose's iPhone 13 Pro: Can you pls resend the article in chat for us late comers?
- 01:24:11 Penelope Middelboe spiritunbounded.org UK: Great points Margaret Mary.  
SpiritUnbounded.org is a network of 38 umbrella reform group which includes CCRI. Check us out.
- 01:24:30 Margaret Mary Moore: Please share your websites for all of us so we can learn from each and with each other.
- 01:25:11 Steve Newton, CSC AUSCP: Association of US Catholic Priests. Auscp.org
- 01:25:45 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: [www.wijngaardsinstitute.com](http://www.wijngaardsinstitute.com) for the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research
- 01:25:47 Frank Callus: ACTA- [www.acalltoaction.org.uk](http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk)
- 01:27:15 Svea Fraser: Voice of the Faithful: [Votf.org](http://Votf.org)
- 01:27:16 Margaret Mary Moore: Here are a few websites with important data on the abuse situation: [www.bishopaccountability.org](http://www.bishopaccountability.org). and [www.SNAPnetwork.org](http://www.SNAPnetwork.org). and [www.ecaglobal.org](http://www.ecaglobal.org) which stands for End Clergy Abuse. [www.CatholicProject.Catholic.edu](http://www.CatholicProject.Catholic.edu). I also encourage you to research the 2019 and 2020 Papal Synod on the Sexual Abuse of Minors.
- 01:27:44 Frank Callus: International Church Reform Network [www.icrn.info](http://www.icrn.info)
- 01:28:01 Bernard Survil: Fr. Reese is not the only American who has spoken about Selection of bishops. A few years ago we in Greensburg Diocese heard Nicholas Cafardi speak. Here's the link:
- 01:28:13 Bernard Survil:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UCFCIJRWtTWG19CxP3G6dXrXa9NWSr7D/view>
- 01:28:21 Rose's iPhone 13 Pro: I'm a board member of FutureChurch <https://futurechurch.org/>
- 01:28:37 Joe Healey: Small Christian Communities (SCCs) Global Collaborative Website  
<https://www.smallchristiancommunities.org>
- 01:29:27 Margaret Mary Moore: Joe Healey and Young Seekers: please give the Facebook address so people can see what the Young Seekers are doing.
- 01:31:16 alloysnyakundi: Online Young Adult Seekers Small Christian Communities  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/919056526257607/>
- 01:31:54 Joe Healey: Small Christian Communities (SCCs) Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/www.smallchristiancommunities.org>
- 01:32:38 Steve Newton, CSC AUSCP: PLEASE MUTE MICS. NOT DOING SO RUINS THE PRESENTATION!!
- 01:32:44 Penelope Middelboe spiritunbounded.org UK: CAN EVERYONE MUTE
- 01:36:02 Penelope Middelboe spiritunbounded.org UK: TOM ALRLUTZ please mute
- 01:36:39 Rose's iPhone 13 Pro: The host of the meeting has power to mute people, and power to ask them to unmute
- 01:36:47 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "The host of the meet..." with 👍

01:38:33 Tom Alrutz: Tom Alrutz Voice of the Faithful

01:42:58 Haydee von Sternberg: what is the 5th found????

01:43:03 Haydee von Sternberg: wound

01:43:13 Penelope Middelboe spiritunbounded.org UK: Since one doesn't have to be ordained to become a bishop why don't they let women stand?

01:44:00 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Reacted to "Since one doesn't ha..." with 🙄

01:44:03 Margaret Mary Moore: I think the 1983 new Code of Canon Law has closed those loopholes but I'm not sure.

01:45:11 Svea Fraser: Reacted to "wound" with 👍

01:49:56 Ashik Naz: There is no perfect way to select bishops, bishop should be selected by the priests

01:50:30 Margaret Mary Moore: And with lay leaders involved too.

01:51:08 Ashik Naz: Reacted to And with lay leaders... with "❤️"

01:51:55 Penelope Middelboe spiritunbounded.org UK: With reference to Thomas Reese saying democracy gave us Trump we have got to acknowledge the huge 'moral' pressure and money spent by Catholics to persuade the electorate to vote for Trump.

01:52:10 Margaret Mary Moore: Reacted to "With reference to Th..." with 👍

01:52:26 Cecilia Ndinda: I think the priests and the lay members should all be involved in the selection of bishops since they've had enough time to interact with them and know their strengths and weaknesses better

01:52:50 Margaret Mary Moore: Well said, Cecilia!

01:52:55 Ashik Naz: Bishops selection processed must be more opened to laity and they have voting rights

01:53:40 Jesca Donisian: Reacted to I think the priests ... with "👍"

01:54:05 Penelope Middelboe spiritunbounded.org UK: Reacted to "With reference to Th..." with 👍

01:54:10 Faith Makori: Replying to "I think the priests ..."

Agreed 🙏

01:54:54 Frank Callus: Election of bishops is the first part of the process. A model of long-term accountability is also necessary.

01:54:57 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Why should we trust exclusively male groups, i.e., priests or other bishops to select bishops who will be balanced & honest stewards?

01:55:10 Margaret Mary Moore: Reacted to "Election of bishops ..." with 👍

01:55:39 Rose's iPhone 13 Pro: Reacted to "Why should we trust ..." with 👍

01:56:57 Margaret Mary Moore: We shouldn't, Rita. We need to change seminary education to co-education for Theology & Ministry where those called by the Holy Spirit can be in formation together. The seminary system is not tenable or healthy.

01:57:14 Jon Rosebank: The key to fair politics is for things to be decided locally. The greater distance between people and power, the less fairly things are decided. The more power is centralised, the less representative it is.

01:57:22 Thomas Reese: Reacted to "Why should we trust ..." with 👍

01:57:29 Margaret Mary Moore: Reacted to "The key to fair poli..." with 👍

02:00:03 Ashik Naz: Well said Luca, 🙏, Community involvement in a democratic way

02:00:33 Margaret Mary Moore: Replying to "We shouldn't, Rita. ..."

While this is probably not on any bishop's agenda, I think we should openly talk about formation, leadership, and to promote alternatives - now and not later.

02:03:13 Ashik Naz: Without involving Laity, Church cannot be called a faithful Church, free and fare election in a democratic way for bishops

02:03:57 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Reacted to "We shouldn't, Rita. ..." with 🙌

02:05:58 Collins Ongoma: In the spirit of having a synodal church I feel it's important for the laity to be given an opportunity to elect the bishop of their choice.

We have many competent people around us but because of the bureaucracy and the hidden politics in our church they can't get an opportunity to lead.

Having a democratic system of election will kill favoritism as it has been practiced by chosen few.

He who is elected democratically bearing in mind is guided by the Canon laws and the scriptures, will work accountably.

The reality is, the appointed tend to be more loyal to the appointing authority rather than serving the church autonomously.

02:06:43 Margaret Mary Moore: Reacted to "

In the spirit of h..." with 👍

02:07:20 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Reacted to "

In the spirit of h..." with 👍

02:07:24 Cecilia Ndinda: Reacted to

In the spirit of h... with "👍"

02:07:27 Rose's iPhone 13 Pro: All of the issues we're talking about are also issues in every level of the church!!

02:08:57 Rose's iPhone 13 Pro: Synodality is really the key in my opinion, in all levels/in all our ways of being church

02:09:14 Vicki: Communal Prayer is so important in all of these options

02:09:38 Steven Mwanjila: Reacted to "

In the spirit of h..." with 👍

02:10:14 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "Well said Luca, 🙌, ..." with ❤️

02:10:37 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "Why should we trust ..." with 👍

02:10:45 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "Election of bishops ..." with 👍

02:11:40 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Replying to "Election of bishops ..."

Amen to that! Part of my longer presentation described the election precisely as the first step in introducing accountability to the leadership.

02:13:47 Margaret Mary Moore: Replying to "Election of bishops ..."

Formation of the laity might also be called the "first-part" of the process. So many have no idea about what we are talking about.

02:14:01 Ashik Naz: In Pakistan, when a Catholic bishop is appointed to a new diocese, the previous one remains vacant for a while. The process of selecting a new bishop involves several steps and can take many years. An Apostolic Administrator is appointed temporarily to oversee the vacant diocese. The new bishop's appointment is a significant event for the local Catholic community.

02:14:04 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Is Marc Ouellette still advising Francis on new bishops?

02:15:30 Vicki: Interesting thought: what are the performance metrics for a bishop? Does it depend on the conditions of the local church?

02:16:19 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Are there any mechanisms for laity to give feedback on auxiliary bishops? I've seen some that have serious flaws as well as assets.

02:17:11 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Replying to "Election of bishops ..."

that's why democratic elections only come after extensive public debate and hustings of candidates, where people can get to know them and ask them questions

02:17:13 Penelope Middelboe spiritunbounded.org UK: Luca's point that a bishop must reflect the local church not their own personal views is very important. Jon and I will do what we can locally to start pushing for Episcopal elections. We had thought it was so unlikely that it wasn't really what we should be focusing on yet. However Luca has persuaded me that it is our moral duty to have democratic elections rather than perhaps an incremental move towards an involvement of a few hand-picked lay people, It is the secrecy and favouritism of the current system, or of a slightly altered system in the future, that amplifies the exclusion of the local church. And is unChristian. Priests, religious and lay must work together on this. We must be as bold as Antonio Rosmini!! Sorry Rene and Margaret Mary but we have to go now, Jon Rosebank and I. Thank you everyone. Including Alan.

02:17:29 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Replying to "Well said Luca, 🙏, ..."

Thank you Ashik!

02:17:46 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "Without involving La..." with 👍

02:18:09 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "

In the spirit of h..." with 👍

02:18:43 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Alan thank you for the excellent examples of flaws in the system.

02:19:06 jon rosebank: Thanks everyone. So much to think about now.

02:19:45 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "Luca's point that a ..." with 👍

02:19:49 Mehwish Akram: I would like to appreciate the words of all people... You people are amazing people with amazing thoughts... Especially I am loving the thoughts of Luca....

02:20:07 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "I would like to appr..." with ❤️

02:20:16 Mehwish Akram: Reacted to I would like to appr... with "❤️"

02:20:17 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Replying to "I would like to appr..."

Thank you so much Mehwish

02:20:30 Margaret Mary Moore: Reacted to "I would like to appr..." with ❤️

02:20:50 Mehwish Akram: Replying to "I would like to appr..."

My pleasure.... 😊

02:20:54 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "My pleasure.... 😊" with ❤️

02:24:09 Rose's iPhone 13 Pro: But do we really have good priests now?? Seminary formation is related to this also!!!

02:24:24 Ashik Naz: Appreciated your question Frank

02:25:38 Cecilia Ndinda: What are the factors or qualities considered when selecting a bishop?

02:25:45 Ashik Naz: Lobbying and advocacy in different groups of the priests in diocese wins the bishop seat,

02:32:11 Ashik Naz: Happy birthday Ed

02:32:27 Ged: We seldom hear mention of laicized priests - those who have patiently engaged in the process of laicization and are still actively living their spirituality as married Catholics. These are some of the finest, theologically trained and psycho-spiritually mature men I know. But I know several who longed to serve as chaplains, but could NOT get a letter of mandate from the Archbishop.

02:32:27 Valentine Musumba: Happy birthday Ed Reading 🎉 🎉 🍷 🍷

02:32:43 Ed Reading: TY

02:33:28 Cecilia Ndinda: Happy birthday Ed 🎂

02:33:53 Ashik Naz: We have toothless parish council who never been independently able to serve, Parish Priest is the head of the Parish council, assistant priest is treasurer, and catechist is general secretary, no decision-making power to laity

02:34:09 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "We have toothless pa..." with 🙏

02:35:40 Margaret Mary Moore: Pactpan.org

02:36:25 Margaret Mary Moore: Replying to "We have toothless pa..."

That is a good example of the problem!

02:36:41 Malcolm Nazareth: Ed: "We seldom hear mention of laicized priests" I'm one of them. The RC Church punishes its married priests.

02:37:03 Ellen: ellen Reilly

02:37:05 Margaret Mary Moore: So stick around with us!!!!

02:37:06 Haydee von Sternberg: haydee@sdfsassociation.org

02:37:09 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "Ed: "We seldom hear ..." with ❤️

02:37:12 Vicki: I'd like to see this start with selection of pastors as well

02:37:13 Ed Reading: Fr. Ed Reading PapaDocNJ@aol.com

02:37:24 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "I'd like to see this..." with 🙏

02:37:26 Rita L. Houlihan, NY, NY: Rene could you save the chat contents for us

02:37:29 Ellen: nellreilly@yahoo.com

02:37:31 Joe Healey: Paterson Diocese in New Jersey is a good model.

02:37:36 Malcolm Nazareth: email: uniite@gmail.com (uniite has 2 eyes)

02:37:39 Ashik Naz: Thank you

02:37:42 Ged: And Malcolm, you laicized priests have so much to offer us.

02:38:23 Margaret Mary Moore: Reacted to "And Malcolm, you lai..." with 👍

02:38:29 Valentine Musumba: Thank you guys this was very insightful I'm really learning a lot from you people.

God bless you 🙏

02:38:40 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Reacted to "Thank you guys this ..." with ❤️

02:38:59 Michael: John Stowe of Lexington is asking me to build a lay formation program for the diocese based on synodality. This is essential for paving the way for this work

02:39:12 Mary Wahome: With everyday, the young people learn something, Thank you everyone



02:39:26 Malcolm Nazareth: We do, Ged. We're waiting to be asked to play significant roles.

02:39:32 Cecilia Ndinda: It was amazing

02:39:47 Ellen: Wonderful all thank you

02:39:58 Dr.Aditi Munmun Sengupta: Dr.Aditi Munmun Sengupta  
sengupta2aditi@gmail.com

02:40:15 Tom Alrutz: talrutz@aol.com Tom Alrutz Newark New Jersey

02:40:19 Michael: michael.hickin@fargodiocese.org

02:40:24 Luca Badini - Wijngaards Institute: Gotta go now, take care everybody!

02:40:27 Frank Manning: My email is Manningcta@aol.com

02:40:41 Jim McCarville: Jim.McCarville@gmail.com